

Message Text

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73

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-14 JUSE-00

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-10 TRSE-00 USIA-15 NSC-07

SCI-06 OMB-01 AID-20 IGA-02 SS-20 SPC-03 L-03 PA-04

PRS-01 AGR-20 DRC-01 /153 W
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R 081500Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3096

INFO AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

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SUMMARY: DEMIREL REPORTEDLY SAID AMERICAN PRESSURE ON
TURKEY OVER OPIUM ISSUE WOULD BE DANGEROUS FOR BOTH
COUNTRIES. END SUMMARY.

1. HURRIYET (MARCH 8) QUOTES JUSTICE PARTY (JP) LEADER
SULEYMAN DEMIREL AS SAYING: QTE IT WOULD BE DANGEROUS
FOR BOTH COUNTRIES FOR AMERICA TO PUT PRESSURE ON TURKEY
OVER THE POPPY BAN QUESTION. END QTE.

2. THE HURRIYET STORY APPEARS BASED ON A MORE LENGTHY
STATEMENT WHICH DEMIREL GAVE TO THE ANKARA REUTERS CORRE-
SPONDENT ON MARCH 6. ACCORDING TO REUTERS ACCOUNT,
DEMIREL ALSO SAID: QTE THE WHOLE THING WAS BADLY HANDLED
AND IT HAS BECOME A DELICATE ISSUE. END QTE. HE SAID
(INDIRECT QUOTE) THAT TURKEY COULD NOT SIT BACK AND ALLOW
HERION TO POISON AMERICAN YOUTH, BUT DIRECT QTE THE
BAN WAS THE WRONG WAY TO ATTACK THE PROBLEM END QTE.
HE SUGGESTED THAT QTE IT MAY BE POSSIBLE TO LIFT THE BAN
AND LET FARMERS GROW POPPIES WITHOUT PRODUCING OPIUM
GUM. END QTE.

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3. COMMENT: NOW THAT THE PRINCIPAL OPPOSITION LEADER HAS SPOKEN SO POINTEDLY ON THE ISSUE, IT MAY BE INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT FOR PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT TO TAKE A DETACHED STAND, WITHOUT APPEARING IN TURKISH EYES TO HAVE GIVEN INTO US PRESSURE. DEMIREL'S STATEMENT CERTAINLY STRENGTHENS THE HANDS OF THOSE INSIDE THE ECEVIT GOVERNMENT WHO WOULD LIKE TO REINTRODUCE POPPY CULTIVATION.
MACOMBER

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Reason:
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US Department of State
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30 JUN 2005

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Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005